States including Orissa like supply of rearing kit to small and marginal farmers assistance to reelors etc.

Besides, there are a number of ongoing central and centrally sponsored schemes, both in Plan and Non-Plan available to handloom weavers throughout the country including those in Orissa. The Schemes include Market Development Assistance, Share capital assistance to weavers for becoming members of primary cooperatives, assistance for modernisation and new looms and training through Weavers' Centres. A new scheme called Project Package Scheme has also been introduced during the current year.

Retrenchment of workers of IDLE Jute Mills

1759. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of jute mills in the organised sector in the country which are lying idle at present;

(b) what is the number of jute mills have been given permission during the last three years to retrench their workers; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) 54 jute mills are lying idle in the country at present.

(b) No information is available with us to indicate that any jute mills have been given permission to retrench their workers.

(c) Does not arise.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम के कर्मचारियों को आवास किराया भत्ता

1760. **डा० बापू कालदाते**: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम के कर्मचारियों द्वारा 5 प्रतिशत आवास किराया भत्ता दिये जाने की मांग की गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या निर्णय लिया है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री श्री (अशोक गहलोत): (क) एन०टी०सी० (एम०एन०) तथा एन टी सी एस एप लि० बम्बई के अधीन मिलों के कर्मचारियों ने महाराष्ट्र कामगार न्यनतम आवास किराया भत्ता, अधिनियम 1983 जिसे महाराष्ट्र की राज्य सरकार द्वारा निम्नलिखित छूट पर 1 जनवरी, 1991 से लागू किया गया है, अंतर्गत पूल वतन+महंगाई भत्ते के आधार पर 5 प्रतिशत की दर से आवास किराये भत्ते की मांग की है :—

(1) भारत सरकार द्वारा अथवा उसके किसी भी प्राधिकरण या विभाग द्वारा चलाई जा रही या उसके नियंत्रण अधीन मिलें ।

(2) एसी मिलें जिनका प्रबंध भारत सरकार द्वारा फिलहाल लाग किसी भी नियम के अधीन अधीगृहीत किया गया है ।

(ख) मामले पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार किया जा रहा है ।

Closure of small scale handloom Units

1761. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether small scale handloom units in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are

lying closed on account of non-supply of the quota of cotton;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the maximum quota of cotton per unit being given or proposed to be given by the Union Government to encourage export by these small scale handloom units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) There is no quota for cotton. However, the recent hike in yarn prices which affected the marketability of handloom cloth, had caused temporary under-employment among the weavers resulting in reduction in their wages. Yet, there are no reports of large scale closure of handloom units in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(c) There is no quota for cotton nor for cotton yarn. Problem is not of availability of cotton yarn but of high prices of yarn and constant fluctuations in yarn prices. Government has taken a number of steps to augment supply of yarn to meet the demands of handloom weavers, both for domestic market and exports. National Handloom Development Corporation has been asked to augment supply of hank yarn, particularly in distress areas. NTC mills have been asked to increase production of hank yarn in counts where the demand is high. State Governments have been requested to exercise restraint in yarn prices in respect of spinning mills in state sector and cooperative sector.

Privatisation of sick Textiles Mills

1762. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills in each State under public sector as well as private sector as on 31st December, 1991;

(b) what is the number of mills closed down during the last one year| proposed to be closed down and number of workers lost their employment and likely to loose their employment; and

(c) what are the details of steps taken|proposed to be taken to privatise such mills rather than closing them down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) A statement showing the number of mills, state-wise, under public sector and private sector as on 31-12-91 is enclosed (see below)

(b) During the last one year, 22 private mills, 2 mills in co-operative sector and one mill of State public sector were closed down and about 38,000 workers affected due to closure. Government do not have information about the number of mills likely to be closed down and workers likely to be affected.

(c) For revival of sick|closed textile mills, Government had created a Nodal Agency to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages for viable units. Government had also established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction BIFR to tackle the problem of industrial sickness and for taking remedial and corrective measures in respect of such units.